

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

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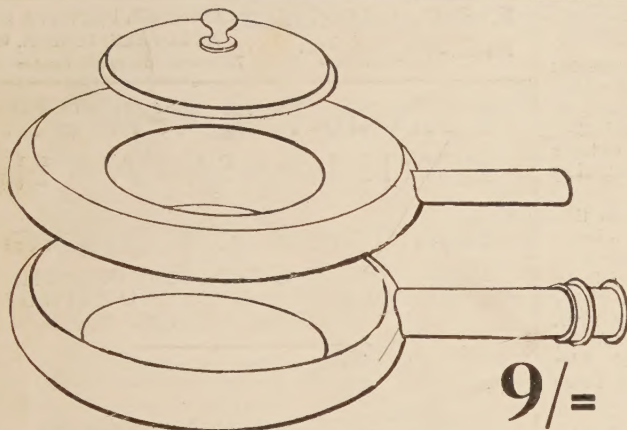
THE NURSING RECORD

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MAY 19TH, 1917

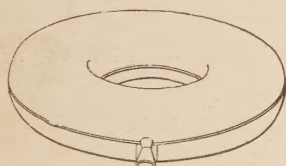
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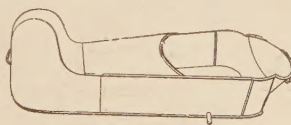
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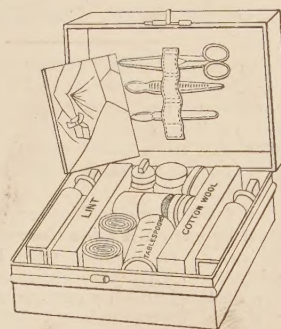
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Applications, stating age, experience, copies of three recent testimonials (including one from last post held) to be sent to the **HON. SECRETARY**, not later than Tuesday, June 5th, 1917.

Canvassing will disqualify. 108

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Canvassing the members of the Council will be a disqualification.

FRANCIS ROBINSON,
Greenwich, Town Clerk.
7th May, 1917. 97

KENDRAY FEVER HOSPITAL,
BARNSELY.

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Candidates must be General trained, with a knowledge of Housekeeping.

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A. J. H. PEARCE,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Union Offices,
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5th May, 1917. 112

HOSPITAL AND POOR LAW VACANCIES
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Deputy Clerk.

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E. H. WADAMS,

Clerk to the Guardians.

Union Offices, Evesham, 98
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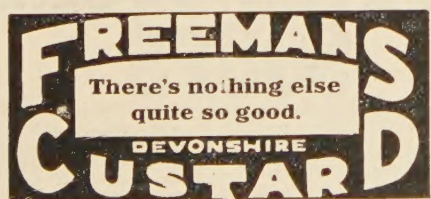
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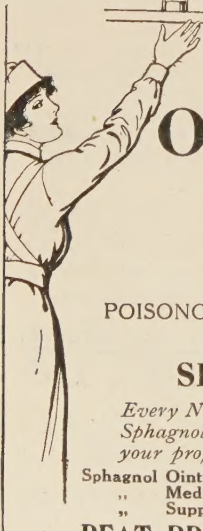
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EDITORIAL.

THE PHYSICAL WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Trained nurses and midwives have for long been aware that the stress and strain of maternity falls with undue severity on many women, owing to the conditions under which they live and bear children, and they will welcome the announcement that in 1916 the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees, in view of the problems associated with infant mortality, had under their consideration the possibility of taking steps to assist in the physical welfare of mothers and young children, which they regard as one of the most pressing necessities of the present time. They indicated in the following terms of reference the lines upon which they desired a complete survey of the subject:—

“To investigate and report upon the existing provision for promoting the Physical Welfare of Mothers and Children, with special reference to the existing provision of Schools for Mothers, Health Houses, &c., the legislation that exists for governing the administration of such centres, and the extent to which municipal authorities have availed themselves of the powers they possess in the matter. Further, to suggest whether any, and if so what, steps might be taken by the Trustees to encourage the provision of such centres, and under what conditions.”

As a result of the investigation, the Trustees have now published two interesting volumes, “Reports on the Physical Welfare of Mothers and Children in England and Wales,” the first by Dr. E. W. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for the City and Port of Liverpool, and Professor of Public Health in the University of Liverpool, and the second by Dr. Janet M. Campbell, one of the Senior Medical Officers of the Board of Education. Other volumes will follow

dealing with Scotland and Ireland. Investigation is the preliminary to action, and the Carnegie Trustees are to be congratulated on taking up the question.

In his introduction Dr. Hope says that some pressing necessities for which there is as yet no adequate provision, nor prospect of making it, are (1) the provision in suitable localities and under appropriate conditions, of maternity homes for the benefit of outlying rural populations, (2) the establishment of welfare centres to meet the recognized needs of prematernity and infancy; with which may be associated day nurseries. The need of providing for the better care of illegitimate infants calls for careful consideration. (3) Provision for the improvement and better equipment of the means of education in the various branches of the science of public health, and for the encouragement of further research into the circumstances adversely affecting infancy and motherhood.

Amongst the causative factors leading to deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis are, we read, those directly associated with the feeding of infants. Formidable ailments arise from disease organisms gaining an entrance into the digestive tract by means of the infants' food.

These germs are found in filth and dirt in neighbourhoods where there is defective sanitation and bad housing, and give rise to an extremely fatal choleraic diarrhoea.

Dr. Hope emphasises the importance of municipal cleanliness in street washing, supply of baths, etc., which, he says, cannot be over estimated.

The Carnegie Trustees in their efforts to promote the well being of the people will have no warmer sympathizers, and no more useful helpers, than the district nurses and midwives throughout the Kingdom who have an intimate knowledge of the conditions under which the poor live.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

GIVE A SHORT DESCRIPTION OF THE FOLLOWING DISEASES, AND GIVE DETAILS OF GENERAL NURSING AND MANAGEMENT: (a) CHOREA, (b) DELIRIUM TREMENS.

We have pleasure in awarding the prize this week to Miss B. Grey Johnson, Bexley, Kent.

PRIZE PAPER.

CHOREA.

Chorea may develop at any time of life, but it chiefly occurs during childhood and adolescence, and I think perhaps most of us associate the word "chorea" with children. The disease, unfortunately, is a common one, and is believed to be due to the effect of an infectious agent, or its toxin, on the central nervous system, characterized by irregular, involuntary muscular contractions, resulting in movements of a purposeless nature.

Sometimes the symptoms are very slight and remain so for some time; the fingers are only twitched a little, and irregular movements are scarcely noticed, but the child often drops things that she attempts to carry.

In some cases there is decided paralysis, with only slight choreic movements.

Movements of a very violent nature are exceptional, but occasionally they do occur, and mostly in young pregnant women; in these cases standing or sitting becomes impossible, and the patient is confined to bed, where she throws herself about in the wildest contortions.

Many choreics have had rheumatic fever or have cardiac disease, but there is a form of chorea which appears late in life, and is not associated with either of these, but with definite insanity, and it may in this form recur in several members of the same family. The prognosis in children is very favourable, but in young adults it is more uncertain.

The essential treatment is rest in bed, quietness, plenty of plain, nourishing food, and fresh air.

Children suffering from this disease should not be subject to the ridicule of companions nor to much study of lessons; in short, everything tending to worry and annoy should be kept from them until they have completely recovered.

In very severe cases the patient must be protected from injury, otherwise severe bruising or worse may take place, even though she be in bed.

Massage is of great benefit in reducing the disease to more moderate limits, to be followed afterwards by out-of-door gymnastic exercises.

DELIRIUM TREMENS.

Delirium tremens occurs in those who habitually drink freely, and who have recently been taking large quantities continuously for some days.

As a distaste for drink is often one of the first manifestations of the disease we are not surprised to hear sometimes that the patient had left off drinking for two or three days before the symptoms came on.

Mental shock, the onset of an acute disease, or an injury will cause delirium tremens without any evidence of any amount of drinking beyond the daily average. The first symptoms are loss of appetite, sleeplessness, restlessness, and great irritability; later on the patient constantly talks and addresses those about him, or imaginary persons, quickly changing from one subject to another. As the condition gets worse he has definite hallucinations and illusions, and may, under some false impression, strike those who are looking after him or do himself some injury.

The temperature rises quickly, the pulse is quick and full, and the hands shake, and the lips and tongue tremble.

In favourable cases an improvement begins to take place on the third day, the patient falling into a natural sleep lasting for some hours, from which he awakes much refreshed, and gradually an improvement takes place in all respects.

In more serious cases death may result from exhaustion, cardiac failure, or pneumonia.

The chief points in the nursing are absolute quietness and a darkened room, firmness, tact, and constant observation, as one must always bear in mind the likelihood of the patient doing himself or others an injury.

Liquid food in small quantities should be given every two or three hours.

Narcotics do good in some cases, but are to be given with caution, as there is in cases of delirium tremens great resistance to the action of drugs. One would think that a patient once having had what is commonly spoken of as D.T.'s would give up the drinking of alcohol, but unfortunately this is not so.

HONOURABLE MENTION.

The following competitors receive honourable mention:—Miss Ethel E. Hall, Miss A. M. Johnson, Miss B. Carter, Miss M. Robinson, Miss J. Baldwin, Miss Dora Vine.

QUESTION FOR NEXT WEEK.

Describe the abdominal complications of enteric fever, and give an account of the methods of nursing employed in these.

THE PREVENTION OF PEDICULOSIS.

AN ANTI-PARASITIC VEST.

A very interesting note of the prevention of pediculosis, by Captain J. A. Gunn, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., R.A.M.C.T., is published in the *British Medical Journal*. Captain Gunn writes that the difficulty of keeping the soldier free from pediculosis is of importance, "not only on account of the distress which the condition directly causes, but also by reason of the part it may play in the dissemination of disease."

"The possibility which seemed at first practical and most likely of success was to obtain some solution of a parasiticide substance in a volatile solvent which could be sprayed on those parts of underclothing chiefly haunted by the parasite. While I was investigating a spray for this purpose, Mrs. Arthur Thomson brought me some undervests, which were being made by a work party in Oxford for distribution to soldiers, with the query whether they could be dipped, previous to distribution, in some anti-parasitic solution. Those undervests were made of a material called butter muslin, which is very thin and light, and so cheap that I believe the intention was that the garments could be thrown away after being worn once. With such a tenuous material it appeared likely that dipping of the whole garment might be adopted without the use of such a quantity of solution as to render the cost prohibitive for wide use. There are, of course, other drawbacks to dipping the usual types of underwear in solutions of any kind."

"From a consideration of such literature as was immediately available to me, the parasiticides which appeared most promising were naphthalene and sulphur, and, after some experiments, I finally adopted a solution of naphthalene and sulphur, 1 per cent. of each, in benzol. This solution, at first intended as a spray, was now used to dip the undervests; though it could still be used as a spray. When the undervests are dipped in this solution and wrung, the benzol, of course, evaporates in a few minutes, and leaves the garments impregnated with sulphur and naphthalene in minute particles. I found that undervests so treated did not cause any irritation when worn next the skin, and that they retained the naphthalene and sulphur sufficiently long for practical purposes. By this method those substances not merely are deposited on the surface of the garment, but actually penetrate the fibre."

"The cost of such an undervest in the spring of 1915 was about fourpence; and the cost of

dipping, when batches of about fifty were done at a time, was about one farthing a garment. Owing to the increase in prices, the cost both of the garment and of the dipping has about doubled when the various materials are privately purchased."

"Benzol, which was first used, later became unobtainable, and the second grade of petrol was used instead. The latter does not seem to be quite such a good solvent, especially for sulphur; but in either case it is well to allow at least twenty-four hours for solution, the substances being used in fine powder. The solution can be made with sufficient accuracy by using an ounce and a half each of naphthalene and sulphur to one gallon of benzol or petrol. Solution may not be quite complete. The quicker the manipulation the larger the number of garments that can be dipped in a given quantity of solution; and various devices towards such economy will suggest themselves."

"Undervests of this material are very comfortable to wear. Owing to their thinness they do not, in cold climates, constitute an undesirable addition to ordinary underwear; but in tropical climates I believe they have been worn alone. Impregnation with sulphur and naphthalene does not give rise to such an objectionable aroma as one might imagine. It would be an obvious advantage, for more complete protection, to have pants made and treated in the same way, and I understand that this is now frequently done."

"Since June, 1915, undervests of this material and dipped in this way have been sent out in large numbers to officers and men at the seats of war. . . . I am indebted to Mrs. Gerrans not only for taking the actual dipping in hand, but also for her trouble in corresponding with the men who have received the vests. She has now distributed some thousands of these garments. The testimony of officers and men has been so unanimous in favour of the high or complete protection which these vests have afforded against *Pediculus corporis* that I feel that further hesitation in making the method more widely known may be unjustifiable."

"Dipping the garment in a solution of sulphur and naphthalene in benzol has advantages over merely sprinkling the garment with the same substances in powder: (1) because the distribution of the powder is uniform and universal; (2) because, being impregnated in the fibre of the garment, it is longer retained; and (3) because the treatment is not left to the soldier himself, who receives the garment already treated. I may add an extract from a

letter recently received from an officer in France who has taken much trouble to report on the efficacy of these antiparasitic vests.

"The shirts are doing good work, and there is quite a demand for them. The billets we occupy are not very clean, and consequently scabies is quite common. For scabies the shirts are excellent. For lice they do the work, but in some cases take time before they actually kill the lice. For some days the latter lie dormant on the shirts before they die. One man showed me a shirt with over 200 dead on it. This is encouraging as to their efficacy."

NURSING AND THE WAR.

On Saturday His Majesty the King presented the decoration of the Royal Red Cross to the following Matrons, Sisters and Nurses:—

THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

FIRST CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.—*Matron*: Alicia Williams. *Sister*: Elizabeth McGill.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE.—*Matrons*: Isabel Davidson, Dora Finch, Annie McIntosh, Constance Metcalfe, Emily Scott, Jessie Stevenson, Elizabeth Stewart, and Mary Thorburn.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT.—Mrs. Parsons.

SECOND CLASS.

QUEEN ALEXANDRA'S IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSING SERVICE RESERVE.—*Matrons*: Lucy Jolley and Mary Kinloch.

CIVIL NURSING SERVICE.—*Matrons*: Florence Healey, Mary Herbert, Sarah Hutchinson, Katherine Jackson, Catherine Johnston, Vera Spencer-Jones, Amelia Lawson, Margaret Low, Christina Maccallum, Jane MacMaster, Mary Macrae, Alice Moir, Katherine Platt, Annie Reay, Elizabeth Smith, Edith Sordy.

Assistant Matrons: Jean Greig, Kate Hebdon, Margaret Herriott, Louise Hotine, & Eva Jones.

Sisters: Gertrude Carter, Hilda Goldthorp, Annie Grattan, Nina Gray, Lilian Howarth, Clara Lawrenson, Kathleen O'Connell, Ida Page, Rose Smith, Eden Staveley, Florence Rollinson.

Staff Nurses: Elizabeth Bousfield and Catherine Mackenzie.

CANADIAN NURSING SERVICE.—*Sister*: Helena, MacLaughlin.

VOLUNTARY AID DETACHMENT.—Lady Sargant.

Queen Alexandra received at Marlborough House the Matrons, Sisters and Staff Nurses of the Military and Civil Nursing Services who have been awarded the Royal Red Cross, subsequent to the Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

The Report of the Committee on the Supply of Nurses is, we are informed by the Secretary of the War Office, still under the consideration of the

Council. It would be interesting to know why this document still hangs fire. Parliament and the public have been awaiting its publication for months.

Just as large detachments of trained nurses were drafted to France from our large Territorial Hospitals, large convoys of very seriously wounded men have been admitted, and the depleted nursing staff has had a most arduous time, and people have been pressed into the service who are not of the high standard of which the Territorial Nurses are justly proud.

We hear with sorrow of a great number of major operations, especially of amputations, being necessary, owing to the terrible injuries to the lower limbs. One poor lad, who had lost his leg at the hip joint and was recovering from terrible attacks of hæmorrhage, made us smile, in spite of a lump in one's throat. "I'm glad to get rid of it," he said, "and only sorry it was too far gone for anatomical purposes—seems sort of waste." And then he added: "It's all right with *her*. She says it's me face as she fell in love with—not me leg." She seems the right sort.

Lord Derby's call for nurses has resulted in a few letters in the *Times*. One "Observer" is all for promoting V.A.D.s to posts of responsibility and honour; "they are," he writes, "the very stuff of which the nursing profession has needed more for many years. Unless they are utilised now will they still be available for the Army after the war, and is it right to deprive the British soldier now of their services, utilised to the full, whilst he has in a good percentage of cases to endure the ministrations of the 'trained' nurse of inferior capacity and standard of duty?"

Mr. George Buchanan makes public the case of Miss Bridger, evidently one of the victims of the system of despotism rife under the "Serf Clause" to which we have drawn public attention.

"One who knows," a V.A.D., assures "the trained nurse that the last thing a V.A.D. wishes is to compete for a position she herself realises she is not competent to fill," although she states "since V.A.D.s first started their careers in military hospitals they have been up against professional jealousy."

The *Times* for once has permitted "A Trained Nurse" to speak for her profession—and an excellent résumé of this vexed question she gives—the pith of which is that three years' systematic training in the nursing of men, women, and children in all the branches of general nursing, and discipline withal, are necessary to equip a trained nurse for her responsible duties. "Again, the war has provided a type of work practically unknown in peace time, and which will, we hope, before long make little demands on the nursing world; also the use of orderlies, and the general military routine are unknown quantities in the training hospital, while the exigencies of war

necessitate a much lower standard of nursing to cope with the large and varying number of wounded, and rough and ready methods that do not obtain in the civil wards, certainly not in training schools." Thus the V.A.D. "would have much to unlearn if placed after the war in civil hospitals on equal footing with a second or third year's nurse, . . . and only the steady progress through the first year's routine and discipline, with the carefully varied work to cover all branches can make a nurse helpful in her second year and responsible in her third year.

"If these ladies have any true love of the work, and have gained any real insight into nursing, they will desire to train fully, and raise themselves to the required standard, and not desire a noble profession to lower its standard to suit their terms, or provide a back door and a lift for the favoured of the public."

"V.A.D. nurses are drawn from all classes of society and number uneducated as well as educated among their ranks, and if recognition is given to one it must be given to all. And recognition, I take it, means that the full trust and confidence of the public are invited for those who have, for the main part, only seen the treatment of exceptional wounds and fractures, requiring, from their septic nature, unusual methods; and who will be called upon to nurse medical diseases they have but scant knowledge of, and diseases of women and children of which they are wholly ignorant. Surely this is an example that 'a little knowledge is a dangerous thing,' and a reason for begging the V.A.D. nurse who has found her calling to enter a training school and submit to the full training, and thus maintain the prestige of British nursing and the ideals of Miss Nightingale."

What a relief it is to read in the *Times* for once an expert expression of opinion on the nursing question, instead of sentimental twaddle or interested opinion expressed by those exploiting nurses in one form or another.

A correspondent writes: "The most remarkable instance has just come to my knowledge of the vagaries of War Office red tape; had I not had the story first-hand from a colleague, I don't think I could have believed it. This colleague has a daughter who has for many months been a 'V.A.D.' and has been doing cross-Channel journeys in hospital ships. Recently her ship was torpedoed, and it did not get into the papers; she (and everyone else) was saved, and the ship towed in. The other day her Matron told her she was entitled to certain allowances and suggested she should apply for them. She did so, and the reply came that she was no longer entitled to them because she had 'broken her agreement.' Quite at a loss to understand how she had done so, she wrote and said she was unaware of it and asked for information. The astonishing reply came that she had been torpedoed and had left the ship, so breaking her agreement. She was informed that now she had joined a new ship she

must sign a fresh agreement and start fresh!! Did you ever hear so astounding an absurdity? It's like the story of the man who was docked of his wages because he left his work by being blown up in an explosion."

Of course, such arrangements are astounding, but they are also unjust, and the victim would do a service if she insisted upon such an absurdity being rescinded. In our opinion, every nurse and V.A.D. who risks her life in cross-Channel hospital service should be paid a handsome indemnity, as no claim can be advanced for the expenses for a military funeral, if unfortunately she goes to the bottom as food for fishes!

Miss Amy Bland Hill, the popular Matron of the Bath War Hospital, had an enthusiastic reception after returning from London with the decoration of the Royal Red Cross. She was met by all the patients, nurses, and members of the staff who could possibly assemble, and was presented with a bouquet of red roses tied with the colours—red and blue—of the ribbon of her decoration. Miss Hill, who was naturally much pleased, suitably acknowledged this spontaneous manifestation of kind feeling.

OUR ROLL OF HONOUR.

In Monday's casualty list the following name appears:—

DIED.

TURTON, Staff Nurse A. M., Queen Alexandra's Military Nursing Service Reserve.

TRUE TALES WITH A MORAL.

OVERHEARD AT A NURSING CENTRE.

Trained Nurse 1: "Don't talk to me of Commandants. I have been twenty years a nurse and I have never been so chivied about and bullied, even in my probationer days, as I have been lately. I was on night duty part of the time, and when it was my night off this Commandant used to put two V.A.D.s in charge, and with serious cases too. There was an awfully bad case on one night when I was supposed to be off duty; he was on injections of hyoscine, so I stayed on till 10 p.m., and gave it him myself. Next morning the Commandant sent for me after I had gone to bed, and I had to get up and dress, and she flew at me, and asked what business I had to stay on duty without permission." (The eavesdropper, a nurse in mufti, longed to say, "More fool you to get up.")

Trained Nurse 2, smiling: "I found my Commandant quite nice. Nurse — who was there before me gave me a parting piece of advice—'Now mind you don't spoil the Commandant,' she said, 'I have got her into good order and mind you keep her in her place.'"

What hope of discipline in hospitals so organised? A well trained Matron in charge is the only remedy. But the War Office has made the fundamental error of placing untrained Commandants in charge of hospitals, and declines to recognise the mistake.

JOINT WAR COMMITTEE.

HOME HOSPITALS.

The following Sisters have been deputed for duty in Home Hospitals:—

St. John V.A. Hosp., Chester.—Mrs. E. Garton, Mrs. E. Waterhouse.

V.A. Hosp., Up Lyme, nr. Lyme Regis.—Miss J. H. Dowell.

Boothroyd Aux. Hosp., Brighouse.—Miss L. Huggins.

Sutherland Aux. Hosp., Reading.—Miss N. P. Wheeler.

Quarry Place Hosp., Shrewsbury.—Mrs. L. A. L. Johnston.

Uplands Aux. Mil. Hosp., Winchester.—Miss H. Lacey.

Hosp. Facial Injuries, 78, Brook Street.—Miss M. S. Payne.

Davis Hosp., Bedford.—Miss F. M. Stephens.
Woodhouse Hosp., Gt. Horkesley.—Miss M. I. Ward.

Windsor Red Cross Hosp., Barry, Glam.—Miss P. A. Johns, Miss O. M. Lathey, Miss E. E. F. Blackler.

Old Hastings House, Hastings.—Miss H. C. Gammon.

V.A. Hosp., Tenbury, Somerset.—Miss M. E. Haynes.

St. Bernard's Red Cross Hosp., Wylde Green.—Miss A. E. Leach.

V.A.D., Sandbach, Cheshire.—Miss A. E. Ball, Miss A. N. C. Hayward.

St. Mary's Road V.A. Hosp., Willesden.—Miss O. M. Wright.

Hillsborough Hosp., Harlow.—Miss S. Watt.
V.A. Hosp., Alcester.—Miss E. M. Smith.

Red Cross Hosp., Middlewich, Cheshire.—Mrs. A. H. Foster.

Red Cross Hosp., Darley Dale.—Miss I. Adam.
Harcombe Aux. Hosp., Crowborough.—Miss A. E. Jones.

Follaton House, Totnes.—Miss E. E. Hyde.
Lingholm V.A. Hosp., Keswick.—Miss A. Versey.

V.A. Hosp., St. Mary's Road, Willesden.—Mrs. E. M. Harding.

Hosp. for Officers, Ongar.—Miss F. J. Harris.
Aux. Mil. Hosp., Shifnal.—Miss N. G. Tazley.

St. Anne's Hall, Caversham.—Mrs. C. Walter.
Aux. Hosp., Downham.—Miss M. J. Pease.

St. John V.A. Hosp., Rugby.—Miss E. M. Clarke.
Aux. Hosp., Aberdare.—Miss O. M. Williams.

Norton Hall Hosp., Camperden.—Mrs. E. B. Plaff.

Sir R. Pendlebury Aux. Hosp., Stockport.—Miss A. R. Hansford, Miss F. M. Harper.

Rosemary V.A. Hosp., Harpenden.—Miss H. Sprowson.

Mil. Hosp., Windlesham Moor.—Miss O. J. Marriott.

The names of Nurses sent abroad are now refused for publication.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED.

The Queen visited Portsmouth on May 9th for the purpose of formally declaring open a new wing of the Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar, the war gift of the women of Canada. It includes new residential quarters for the sick berth staff, containing a gymnasium, billiard rooms, &c. Having declared the building open, the Queen passed to the main building of the hospital. A gathering of nurses in full uniform and patients in blue hospital clothing, with bands and guards of honour as a background, greeted the Queen, and she left Haslar amid cheers.

The troops in France are loud in praise of the whole Medical staff and of the stretcher-bearers, who in recent battles attended the wounded under conditions of great danger, and seemed to bear charmed lives.

It is reported the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors will benefit to the extent of £20,000 by the splendid bazaar at the Royal Albert Hall. We offer our heartiest congratulations to all concerned.

We agree with Sir Johnstone Forbes Robertson that no more worthy way of helping men broken in our wars can be found than in supporting the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops—where totally disabled soldiers and sailors are taught handicrafts and trades whereby they can secure permanent employment which enables them to be self-supporting. We are delighted to hear, as every patriotic nurse will be, that the proceeds of the fascinating play, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," are now to be devoted by this great actor in support of these workshops instead of the "Nation's Fund for Nurses," a form of charity put forth by the College of Nursing in our name, without our consent. We realise the generous intentions of Sir Johnstone Forbes Robertson and his brilliant company all the same.

The British and French delegations to the United States have had a wonderful reception, first in Washington and later in New York; a great collection has been taken up for the British Red Cross Society; and Marshal Joffre—the idol of the hour—was received at Boston with every possible manifestation of enthusiasm for the Allied cause. An enormous procession marched through the streets of the city to Boston Common, where the presentation was officially made of the £20,000 contributed by New Englanders in support of the orphaned children in France.

We scarcely realize in England the wreckage of child life with the passing of the Hun in France and elsewhere. Fatherless, motherless, homeless—millions are needed to care for the world's derelict children, to help them to forget the horrors they have suffered and to bring consolation and some sense of happiness into their lives.

THE NURSES' PETITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

GOVERNMENT BY CONSENT.

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, it was recognised that the policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., in excluding from direct representation on the Provisional Council the Nurses' Organizations which had promoted the State Registration Movement, and paid the whole cost of its propaganda, was a policy to which the members of such societies would not submit.

The Committee, which had been mainly instrumental in converting the members of both Houses of Parliament to the principle of State Registration of Nurses, therefore determined that the very costly work which it had accomplished should not be rendered invalid by the reactionary policy of the College of Nursing, Ltd., which, while professing to promote State Registration and promising self-government to nurses, had drafted a restrictive Constitution, through which they could be coerced, without appeal, and had drafted a Bill which would practically substitute lay control through the nominations of the Nursing Schools, instead of through an independent Central Authority directly representative of Nursing and Medical organisations and of Government Departments.

The Committee decided, therefore, to organize a Petition to the Prime Minister, incorporating the democratic demand of trained nurses for direct and adequate representation on any Provisional Council set up by Parliament to make the Rules they have to obey—government by consent, in fact.

The organization of this vital bit of work was left to the President, who has invited Miss Beatrice Kent and Miss Annie Hulme to add to the debt the profession already owes them for their public-spirited devotion to its interests by acting as hon. secretaries, and compiling a Roll of Certificated Nurses who have signed the Petition, which will be presented to the Prime Minister whenever a Nurses' Registration Bill is introduced by the Government or otherwise.

In our Editorial last week we referred to the new movement, and issued the Form of Petition ready for signature. At the same time many consistent registrationists were invited to sign the Petition and to interest the younger generation of trained nurses in it, for it is their generation which will either greatly benefit or suffer inevitably through legislation.

The Nurses' Petition, inspired as it is by the strongest conviction that safeguards for liberty of conscience, action, and speech must be carefully conserved in any form of legislation calculated to benefit trained nurses and the community, has apparently gone straight to the goal; signed Forms have been pouring into the Office by every post, and from real registrationists there has been a wide demand for Forms for colleagues to sign, so that it would appear that our "Roll of Certificated Nurses" (who do not intend to be governed without consent) will speedily assume such dimensions that our Petition cannot fail to influence the legislators whenever a Nurses' Registration Bill is again before Parliament.

The House of Lords has already conceded the principle of direct representation of the Matrons' and Nurses' organizations in 1908, and we have no fear but that the House of Commons will protect the rights of the rank and file, if only they show themselves sufficiently alert and pertinacious, and alive to the principles of good government.

If only trained nurses are loyal to the public welfare, and give play to their higher attributes, they will win a just measure of nursing reform, but if they permit themselves to be deluded by specious arguments, and made objects of charity and contempt, if they hesitate from apathy or self-interest to fight for the greatest of all human rights—personal responsibility—their subjugation is assured.

We are constantly receiving enquiries: "How can I help the Registration Campaign?" We reply, Convince every trained nurse you know how great and precious a thing is human responsibility. Teach them that nothing really fine can be accomplished without it. Teach them how cruel and abhorrent a thing is that spirit of intolerance which denies such power of growth to fellow-creatures, and in this connection urge every nurse you know to sign the Petition, which claims for them as a class the right to make the Rules by which their personal and professional lives are to be guided and controlled, and through which their ethical standards are to be maintained.

Let each nurse who has signed the Petition during the past week bring it to the notice of her colleagues, and interest and instruct them in the vital principles for which it pleads.

The Petition can be signed at the Office, 431, Oxford Street, London, W., and Forms will be sent free to Matrons and nurses upon application to the Hon. Secretary, Nurses' Petition, at the same address.

FOR A JUST BILL.

The President of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses acknowledges with sincere thanks the following donations. The National Union of Trained Nurses, £5. Miss F. Sleigh, £1 1s. Mrs. Preston, £1. Miss J. W. Davies, 10s. Miss J. H. Macdonald, R.N.S., 5s. Miss M. Byard, 2s. 6d.

POOR LAW OFFICERS AND THE COLLEGE OF NURSING.

We learn from the *Poor Law Officers Journal* that the Parliamentary Committee of the Poor Law Unions' Association "are continuing to press the promoters of the College of Nursing, Ltd., and its associates for a definite statement of their intentions as regards the decision of the Association." The Association requires a large share of representation on the Council. "We must not fail either to recognise quite fairly," the article continues, "that it is a request, and a repeated one, which proceeds from a representative public body to a private one which has not so much as a shadow of a title to public representation. We know that there are chartered companies which have been founded with control over material matters, but can anybody produce an example of a limited company which has been given control over a public service that is concerned in such far reaching consequences as those which are bound up in the question of life and death which affects many thousands of the public, men, women and children? The position being what it is the inquiry may well be made which would require such an answer from Parliament as would state the ground on which the Legislature could furnish any limited company with power to decide who should or who should not control the care of many thousands of our fellow citizens."

AN INACCURATE STATEMENT.

Speaking recently at a meeting of nurses at Queen Mary's Hospital, West Ham, the Honble. Arthur Stanley said at present no society had any legitimate claim to represent more than a thousand or two thousand nurses, and the profession probably numbered 40,000 to 50,000.

We presume Mr. Stanley forgot the existence of the Central Committee for the State Registration of Nurses the federated membership of which at its lowest computation numbers 10,000 nurses, who have been working and paying for registration for many years, to say nothing of the members of the various Leagues of Nurses who support the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. And it must be remembered that these nurses have come out and agitated for reform, often unsupported by their Matrons and in opposition to their Committees.

To compare these courageous pioneer workers with any number of thousands of nurses who may

be influenced, if not coerced, by committees and matrons to join the College of Nursing would be very unfair.

APPOINTMENTS.

MATRON.

Chalmers Hospital, Banff.—Miss Agnes E. Williams has been appointed Matron. She was trained at the Bradford Union Hospital, and has gained experience at the Grove Fever Hospital, Tooting, in Ceylon under the Colonial Nursing Association, and at the British Hospital, Cannes. Miss Williams is at present Matron of the Malton Cottage Hospital.

ASSISTANT MATRON.

Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.—Miss Jennie Brown has been appointed Assistant Matron. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Preston, where she has held successively the positions of Sister, Night Superintendent, and Assistant Matron, and has had experience of infectious nursing at the Monsall Fever Hospital, Manchester, where she has also held the position of Sister.

SUPERINTENDENT NURSE.

Harton Poor Law Institution, South Shields.—Miss Martha Jane Horner has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at St. Pancras Infirmary North, and has been Night Sister at Edmonton Infirmary, Night Sister at the Military Families Hospital, Woolwich, and Second Assistant Matron and Home Sister at the Shore-ditch Infirmary. She is a certified midwife.

City and District Infirmary, York.—Miss Mabel Senior Nuttall has been appointed Superintendent Nurse. She was trained at the York City and District Infirmary, where she has held the positions of Charge Nurse and Head Night Nurse.

SISTER.

Beckett Hospital, Barnsley, Yorks.—Miss M. L. Slee has been appointed Sister. She was trained at the Royal Infirmary, Halifax, and has been Senior Sister at the Moorlands Auxiliary Hospital, Kersal, and has also had experience of District and private nursing.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE INSTITUTE FOR NURSES.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Ada Powell is appointed to Newport Training Home (Shropshire N.F.), as Supt. Miss Ada Powell received General training at St. Olave's Infirmary, District training at Gloucester, and holds the C.M.B. certificate. She has since held various appointments under the Institute, including that of First Assist. Supt. of Somerset C.N.A.

Miss Isabella Randall is appointed to East London (Stepney), as Supt. Miss Randall took her General training at the General Hospital, Northampton; District training at Brighton;

Midwifery training at Gloucester; and has the C.M.B. certificate. She has held several appointments under the Institute, including that of Superintendent of Darlington D.N.A.

Miss Louisa Tringham is appointed to Darlington, as Supt. Miss Tringham received her General training at Brownlow Hill Infirmary; District training at St. Lawrence's Home, Dublin; and holds the C.M.B. certificate. She has held several appointments under the Institute, including that of Assist. Supt. of Warrington D.N.A.

Miss Mildred H. Griffiths is appointed to Glos. C.N.A., as Assist. Supt. and Health Visitor. Miss Griffiths took her General training at the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, District training under the Metropolitan N.A., Midwifery training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, and has the C.M.B. certificate.

Miss Alice B. King is appointed to Cumberland N.A., as Assist. Supt. and Health Visitor. Miss King received General training at St. George's Hospital and District training at Shoreditch.

Miss Margaret E. W. Powell is appointed to Glos. C.N.A., as Assist. Supt. and Health Visitor. Miss Margaret E. W. Powell received General training at Lambeth Infirmary, Midwifery training at the Glasgow Maternity Hospital, and holds the C.M.B. certificate.

Miss Esther C. Smith is appointed to Bath, as Assist. Supt. Miss Smith took her General training at the London Hospital, District training under the Metropolitan N.A., and holds the C.M.B. certificate.

Miss Minnie A. E. Banks is appointed to Dartford; Miss Martha B. Edwards, to Manchester (Salford); Miss Clara M. Freeman, to Liverpool (North); Miss Annie S. Hiscocks, to Hatfield; Miss Emily Lewington, to Swanley; Miss Martha McKee, to Manchester (Salford); Miss Frances Miles, to Bridgnorth; Miss Edith A. Morris, to East London (South); Miss Lizzie Osborn, to Oldbury; Miss Eva W. Owen, to Warrington; Miss Emily M. Powell, to Orpington; Miss Alice Roberts, to Liverpool (North); and Miss Lucy Taylor, to Staveley Town.

NATIONAL UNION OF TRAINED NURSES.

The Manchester Branch of the N.U.T.N. has organised a series of Demonstrations and Lectures on War Time Cookery. Nothing could be more useful at the present time.

We are glad to hear the London Branch of the Union is daily gathering recruits. Miss Marsters, Q.V.J.I., is Chairman.

The Editor acknowledges, with thanks, the gift of 2s. 6d. from "a well wisher" to the fund for the nurse in necessitous circumstances, to whom, through the kindness of its readers, this Journal makes a weekly allowance. The gift has been sent through Miss J. H. Macdonald, R.N.S.

NURSING ECHOES.

On May 12th, the anniversary of the birthday of Florence Nightingale (the Lady of the Lamp), her statue in Waterloo Place, S.W., was decorated, and little Lamps were sold at its foot by Mrs. Lloyd George and others, in aid of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, and Women's Service.

Above the head of the figure was, as on former anniversaries, a nimbus, composed of yellow arum lilies and genista, which, frankly, always strikes us as somewhat heavy and out of place. Round the top of the pedestal, at the feet of our great law giver, were Mary lilies and asparagus fern, and, suspended in the front, in the place of honour, was a wreath of laurels, decorated with a spray of yew, as is fitting in these sorrowful days, and a cluster of crimson carnations, to which were attached streamers of crimson ribbon. It bore the inscription:—

NIGHTINGALE TRAINING SCHOOL,
ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL.

In remembrance, and with love, from her
past and present probationers.

The foot of the pedestal was also decorated with white lilies, hydrangeas, and other fragrant flowers, and round the sides were placed other wreaths testifying to the wide diversity of persons by whom the late Miss Nightingale is held in veneration and affection.

One of the pioneers in establishing a system of nurse training in France on modern lines has been the *Maison de Santé Protestante* at Bordeaux, under the direction of Dr. Anna Hamilton. As we have reported, under the will of Miss Elizabeth Bosc this hospital has been bequeathed an estate at Bagatelle, Talence, of which it took possession in February, 1916. It seems an ideal site for a hospital, but naturally war time is not the time to begin building, and Dr. Hamilton therefore took charge, arranged the house for letting, and began farming, with the result that at the end of the year there was a profit of 1,465 francs, and the hospital patients have enjoyed fresh vegetables, chickens, and rabbits. Two pigs, well fattened, which had not cost the hospital one penny for fattening, were also sold for 648 francs.

There is now a suggestion that the estate should be sold, and the interest of the money used for the endowment of the present hospital in Bordeaux, but, in addition to the known wishes of the testatrix, there is the fact that

the present building is very cramped and awkwardly arranged for its purpose, while the estate at Bagatelle is a perfect site for a new hospital. It is not far out of the town, and in a very poor suburb. It would be convenient, therefore, for out-patients, and later the buildings might include a sanatorium for consumptives, a sun cure for delicate children, a home for disabled and chronic old people, and an orphanage for tiny children before they can be admitted to the schools for orphans, and so on. There seems no end to the possibilities, including a block for paying patients, which might bring in a substantial amount annually. Indeed, there is reason to hope that the hospital might become nearly self-supporting, and the nursing school might take more pupils, and thus an increasing number of excellently trained nurses would be available for the public. The school is well known, and attracts educated girls from all parts of France. These pupils are in great demand when they have received their diplomas, as directrices, and head nurses in civil hospitals, and the recent report of the training school expresses regret that it has not been able to respond to the demands upon it. The school could easily place forty instead of twenty trained pupils if it had them.

During 1916 a daily visiting service, which has been very well received, has been instituted for patients who need skilled attendance without the continuous attention of a resident nurse, similar to that given to district patients.

It will be realized, therefore, that the work done is of extreme value, and that it would be much extended if the resources of a modern and enlarged hospital were available. It would be a splendid gift if Great Britain and America could help to find the funds for building the hospital. Just now France has little money to

spend, and such an act of friendship on the part of her Allies on both sides the Atlantic would be greatly appreciated.

Our portrait of Dr. Hamilton will, we feel sure, give much pleasure to her friends in both countries.

Wonders will never cease. The *Daily Mail* has discovered the "Bogus Nurse," and inserts half a column retailing a few of her knavish tricks. "Surely it is an appalling

thing to think that there is no power to prevent any woman donning a nurse's uniform if she likes to do so, for any purpose she pleases, and even more appalling to realise that a great number of women do wear such attire without having the slightest right to it, and for the worst possible purposes."

Had the *Daily Mail* not persistently boycotted every letter addressed to it during the past decade by professional nurses inviting publicity through its wide circulation, for this and other nursing abuses, it is possible that the "Bogus Nurse" might not have enjoyed with impunity the power to swindle the defenceless public during that period. Bye and bye the *Daily Mail* may realise that it is not only "on the pavement," but in the peerage, that the "Bogus Nurse" is masquerading in



DR. ANNA HAMILTON.

trained nurse's uniform.

We hope that the Scottish Nurses' Association Rooms at 103, Bath Street, Glasgow, will meet a need. The Association has arranged to secure a room for any member having to spend the night in town, but as accommodation is limited, early application to the Secretary at the Club Room is necessary. Bed and Breakfast is 3s. 6d., and membership of the Club 2s. 6d. per annum.

CHINESE MALE NURSES.

Considerable interest was aroused at the Annual Meeting of the Nurses' Missionary League by the address given by Miss Hope-Bell, of Hankow, who, during her work as a member of the London Missionary Society, has done good service in the training of Chinese men as nurses.

In a paper which she read as President of the Nurses' Association of China at an Annual Conference held in Peking, Miss Hope-Bell said:—

It is becoming increasingly evident that trained Chinese men nurses have come to stay. Some people have looked upon them but as temporary expedients, only to be made use of

are becoming experienced. This leakage of useful workers should not be found to any extent in our training-schools for men. Of the educated youths who are taking up the work now-a-days, the majority are prepared to make nursing of the sick their life work, and in that fact lies the possibility of getting really experienced as well as skilled and capable men for posts of responsibility later on.

On arrival in China I found myself in a hospital which had been at work for forty years without a Matron. One or two ladies had, at various times, given help with the linen, but the "glorified coolies" who worked in the wards had never had any instruction in the nursing treatment of the sick. . . .

In commencing work the greatest possible

help to me was a dummy patient, and he is still invaluable. It is possible to buy in Canada (and possibly elsewhere also) a life-size dummy which can be inflated with air when wanted for use. But one which is equally effective, and much less expensive, can be made from calico, and stuffed with sand and sawdust. A mixture of one part sand and two parts sawdust gives a weight equal to that of a medium-sized man; and for certain classes, particularly when the lifting and carrying of patients is being taught, the more weighty dummy is better than the lighter manikin filled with air. It is

convenient to have "the patient" covered with batiste, or other thin mackintosh material, but expenditure on this is not necessary in a sunny climate, where it is possible to put him out in the sun to dry after he has had a blanket bath or a hot pack.

My probationers at first found it difficult to apply the lessons learnt on the dummy to their work in the wards. But this difficulty quickly disappeared, he was taken seriously, and requests for demonstrations (to meet particular needs) became frequent. He soon, therefore, fulfilled his first object, *i.e.*, that of showing the hospital staff that the new Matron did know something about the nursing of the sick, and could give them a tip or two.



A SPLINT-PADDING CLASS.

until such time as the better education of women, and progressive changes in etiquette, should allow of women nurses caring for men patients, as in the homelands.

But why should they not be found permanently in our hospitals for men? Surely men are physically better fitted to lift and turn men patients than are Chinese young women. And they are proving to be as tender-hearted and as gentle-handed as their sisters, and equally capable in every way.

At present, experienced women nurses are few. Hospitals for women are staffed mainly with girls, the majority of whom marry as soon as the certificate is gained, and so disappear from the ranks of the profession just when they

THE ASYLUM WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Asylum Workers' Association was held this year at the Mansion House on Monday last, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, who is a Vice-President of the Association, presiding. The Annual Report was adopted, and a resolution moved by Lieut.-Col. Thomson, M.D., making clear that all Asylum Workers are eligible for membership of the Association. The speaker, who is Commanding Officer of the Norfolk War Hospital, formerly the Norfolk County Asylum, spoke warmly of the work of asylum-trained nurses during the war. It was an interesting coincidence that Miss Hamer, Matron of the hospital, who has been decorated by the King with the Royal Red Cross, was one of those who on Monday received the gold medal of the Association given for long service.

The following is the list of those so honoured :—

MEDALLISTS, 1917.

GOLD.

Mr. R. Walters, Head Attendant, Grahamstown Asylum, South Africa, with 41 years' and 10 months' service.

Miss M. S. Hamer, Matron, Norfolk War Hospital (late Norfolk County Asylum), with 34 years' and 9 months' service.

SILVER.

Mr. F. C. Adlam, Chief Attendant, Portsmouth Asylum, with 40 years' and 4 months' service.

Miss H. H. Church, Head Day Nurse, L.C.A., Colney Hatch, with 29 years' and 9 months' continuous service in one Asylum.

BRONZE.

Mr. J. C. Stratford, Charge Attendant, The Retreat, York; Mr. J. A. Dixon, Chief Attendant, Wadsley, W.R.A.; Mr. F. C. Wreford, Charge Attendant, Exeter City Asylum; Mr. D. Chalmers, Head Attendant, Lanark District Asylum; Mr. J. Davidson, Tailor Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. G. R. Whatley, Charge Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. E. G. Wilson, Ward and Charge Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Mr. G. Powell, Charge Night Attendant, Norfolk War Hospital; Miss E. M. Cranswick, Charge Day Nurse, Hull City Asylum; Miss F. Mileham, Charge Nurse, Norfolk War Hospital.

TUBERCULOSIS AMONGST NURSES.

The American Journal of Nursing suggests that Nursing Associations in every State could do very effective work by making a census of tuberculosis among nurses. The suggestion is that each State Association should appoint a committee to take this work in hand, to confer first with local associations and ascertain how many of their members have this trouble, then with the different hospitals devoted to the cure of such patients, for the number for which they are caring. Members should not be left to endure financial anxiety without assistance from their professional organisations.

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

FROM WORKHOUSE TO WESTMINSTER.
THE LIFE STORY OF WILL CROOKS, M.P.*

It's a far cry from the Workhouse to Westminster, but that wonderful and laborious journey was accomplished by the remarkable man of whom this book is the life record; or rather part of a life, for Will Crooks, we are glad to say, is very much alive still.

It is, as "the author states," the first biography of a working man who has deliberately chosen to remain in the ranks of working men, as well as in their service."

Will Crooks never forgets his early experience as a Poor Law child, and this, instead of embittering him, has filled him with lasting tender compassion for the waifs that for some cause or another have found in the workhouse their only home. Of course it must be remembered that his childhood dates back many years, and that the condition of the Poor Law Child in many Unions is now vastly improved. One of his earliest recollections was seeing his mother cry when he woke up in the little box bedstead by the wall where he slept with three other of the children.

"What are you crying for, mother?"

"It's through wondering where the next meal is coming from, my boy."

He puzzled his young head to know what it all meant.

"My mother crying because she can't get bread for us. Why can't she get bread? I saw plenty of bread in the shops yesterday. Do all mothers have to cry before they get bread for their children?"

Things went from bad to worse until the Crooks family had to enter the workhouse.

"Every day I spent in that school is burnt into my soul," he has often declared since. He could not sleep at night, nor play with the other boys, haunted as he was by the strange dread that he must have committed some unknown crime to be taken from his home and made a little captive in what seemed a fearful prison.

The shuddering memories of his own dark days in the workhouse made him register a vow, little chap though he was at the time, that when he grew up to be a man he would do all he could to make better and brighter the lot of the inmates, especially that of the boys and girls.

"Some children's dreams come true, and this was one of them."

It is not perhaps generally known that Will Crooks was one of the chief promoters of the Bill for the Protection of Infant Life.

"Day after day the Labour man strove with barristers and members of Parliament in the Commons Committee Room to safeguard infants of misfortune from cruelty and neglect. His advocacy prevailed. Baby-farming, as then existing in London, came to an end."

* By G. Haw. Cassell & Co., London.

INGRAM'S *Agrippa* BAND TEAT & VALVE

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(Black or Transparent
Rubber)

Price 3½d. each

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**The "AGRIPPA" Band Teat
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Nurses apply for

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(Black or Transparent
Rubber)

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COPPARD TWINS.

"Fine Contented Boys"

12, Farley Road,
Catford.

July 11th, 1916.

Dear Sirs,

I am sending you a photo of my twin boys taken
when 14 months old. I was only able to feed one
naturally and the other mite I tried on various foods,
but he could not retain any of them. I had to wrap him
in cotton wool he got so very, very thin. I then gave
him Virol and before he had finished the first Jar I
noticed a great improvement. He has now become
such a fine boy. I think that Virol and milk for nursing
mothers is excellent.

During one of the air raids I entirely lost my milk,
but I persevered and by taking Virol and milk was able
to feed my baby boy again. Although they are teething,
they are fine contented boys and never ail anything now.

Yours truly,

A. E. COPPARD.

"In all the cases in which I tried it, the
women not only expressed themselves as
much stronger, but looked much better and
gained in weight at the rate of about four
to five pounds a week"—DR. FELDMAN.
*Lecturer in Midwifery and Hygiene for the
London County Council.*

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With or without Red Cross, full mob crown, with strings to tie at back, entirely covering the hair. Each 1/3

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IN order to decrease the large stocks in the Nurses' Department, we are NOW selling Nurses' Cloaks, Bonnets, Hats, Frocks, Underwear, etc., at REDUCED PRICES.

If you cannot call, be sure and write us for particulars immediately, and take advantage of these Special Reductions.

Hospitals & General Contracts Co., Ltd.

Nurses' Equipment Section (Dept. 1),
19-35, Mortimer St., London, W.1.

Phone—Museum 3140-1.

Agents for the well-known "Bendable" Shoes.

In due course Mr. Crooks was elected a Poor Law Guardian, and this, as he had vowed, became a work into which he threw his whole heart.

When he first entered upon it he found it bound hand and foot by red tape. The men elected by the people did not rule at all. They were little more than the servants of paid officials, whether in the person of Bumble in the workhouse or Bumble at the Local Government Board.

He had not been long in the House of Commons before his voice was heard there on behalf of the workhouse children. Not long after he made a speech on "boarding out" there was an outcry in a section of the press over an amazing example of extravagance at Poplar.

Crooks described it as "being guilty of the great crime of inserting tenders for the supply of a few pat-a-cake biscuits. 'I believe it works out at the rate of a cake for each child once a week. There's extravagance for you! Isn't it scandalous? Just imagine our kiddies in the workhouse school getting a whole pat-a-cake to eat. The youngsters lie awake at nights, wondering when their turn will come again to have a farthing pat-a-cake.'" Good old Will Crooks! We could do with many more Guardians like you!

Everybody should read this inspiring record of what it is possible to become, even amidst and in spite of the most unfavourable circumstances.

H. H.

"LEFT TO THE HOUSE."

The far-reaching Electoral Reform Bill, which deals with all the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference, was introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Walter Long on Tuesday. Briefly the proposals are:—

Qualification for men simplified to six months' residential qualification or occupation of business premises of annual value of £10.

Enfranchisement of women at 30 years of age.

Provision for giving the vote to soldiers and sailors.

Proportional representation.

Regulation of cost of elections.

Fixing all elections on one day.

Enfranchisement of women and proportional representation left to the House.

The Government propose to take the second reading of the Bill next week.

COMING EVENTS.

May 21st-25th.—Post Graduate Week for Midwives, General Lying-in Hospital, York Rd., Lambeth, S.E.

May 23rd.—Trained Women Nurses' Friendly Society. Annual Meeting. 431, Oxford Street, London, W., 4.30 p.m.

June 7th.—Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses. Annual Meeting. Medical Societies' Rooms, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, London, W., 4 p.m. Tea after the meeting by the kind invitation of Mrs. Walter Spencer, 2, Portland Place, W.

TENNYSON AND AMERICA.

In his youth, the poet Alfred Tennyson was a great Radical; he lived to become Poet Laureate, a Peer, and a Courtier.

The following lines to America appeared in the *Examiner*, signed "Merlin," of February 7th, 1852, and appeared in *Harper's Monthly Magazine* of December, 1903, in an article on "Tennyson's Suppressed Poems." The verses are very appropriate to the moment.

"Gigantic daughter of the West,
We drink to thee across the flood,
We know thee most, we love thee best,
For art thou not of British blood?"

Should war's mad blast again be blown,
Permit not thou the tyrant powers
To fight thy Mother here alone,
But let thy broadsides roar with ours.

O rise, our strong Atlantic sons,
When war against our freedom springs!
O speak to Europe through your guns,
They *can* be understood by Kings."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in any way hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.

NURSES DO NOT NEED CHARITY.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Surely if trained nurses are still the hard-working self-respecting type of women they were in my active working days, they will share your feeling of indignation that without consulting the Nursing Profession at large, the College of Nursing, Ltd., has placed it in so false a position as to make a charitable appeal for trained nurses in war time, and thus degrade us in public estimation, for it is injurious to our prestige for a lay corporation to invite benevolence upon our behalf, when our only desire is to help to alleviate the suffering and misery throughout the world, to give and not to take.

Since the first days of the war this most objectionable attitude of patronage has been assumed towards the trained nurse by numberless persons, who have done nothing in the past to see that she is paid adequately for her highly-skilled services. That is where the shoe pinches. Nursing is largely a sweated calling, and now it is to be bolstered up with doles, and a hard-working body of women presented to a sentimental public in *forma pauperis*.

What for? Because a body of laymen have elected to form a company (without shares) to govern us. Presumably the fee of £1 is. they charge the nurses for useless voluntary registra-

tion will not cover the expenses incurred after the first rush. We Registrationists calculated it would not, even worked with the due economy a woman treasurer would have employed.

But what do we find? Already the cost of three offices and officials has been incurred, the expenses of twelve delegates from Scotland and Ireland are to be paid, presumably to the fortnightly meetings of the College Council in London. What will be the cost of these "professional" trips? And will they be debited to the Nurses' Contributions, the Endowment or Benevolent Funds? I am of opinion that as the College of Nursing, Ltd., has thrust itself upon the nursing profession without their consent, any charitable appeal should be made directly in its name, and not for the "Nation's Nurses," as thousands of us are not members of the College and we cannot permit it to speak in our name. You have my heartiest gratitude for placing the feelings and opinions of self-respecting nurses before the British Women's Hospital Committee, who, as Suffragists, appear to have grasped the situation without difficulty.

Yours faithfully,

HENRIETTA HAWKINS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We are glad that through your representations the scheme for procuring charity money for Nurses has fallen through. Even if the Nurses were willing (and they have not been asked), why should they absorb money at a time like this when every penny is required, not only for the sick, wounded, and disabled soldiers, but to help with the war? It is not the time to raise Colleges, Memorials, or Endowments for anything but war. Nurses have waited so long for a just measure of legislation that they are content to wait a little longer for the right thing. We owe you a debt of gratitude for setting us "straight" with the generous Committee of the British Women's Hospital.

I am, yours faithfully,

A. CARSON RAE.

The Nurses' Hostel,
Dublin.

[We gratefully acknowledge many letters received in sympathy with our protest.—ED.]

THE PRESS GANG.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The "Press Gang," in regard to influencing trained nurses to join the College, do not only pursue their undesirable tactics in the offices of Sir Henry Burdett's newspapers, they are equally active in our large training schools. In 1915 all the Sisters and Nurses here were warned off "Registration" by the Matron, and told not to associate themselves with a movement so injurious to the Nursing Profession, and given to understand that the Committee were strongly opposed to it. At a neighbouring hospital (both in London) even the Matron herself was ordered not to attend registration and suffrage meetings.

In 1916 there was a complete *volte face* in this hospital—our Matron professes conversion to State Registration and now we are practically ordered to join the Nursing College to support it, and, to make sure of us, our guineas are to be paid out of charitable funds, which in my opinion the Committee has no right to do. If this is not the policy of the "Press Gang" I should like to know what is. Of course, if we refuse to join, that is put down as insubordination, and means no promotion. Many of us strongly object to be treated as if we were children, or fools. Such pressure is absolutely indefensible, and I am glad to know is being brought to the notice of Members of Parliament by independent members of the profession.

Yours truly,

WARD SISTER IN A LONDON HOSPITAL.

THE NEED FOR NURSE DIETITIANS.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad to learn from M.R.S.'s letter in this week's issue of THE JOURNAL that my experience is exceptional. I have worked in three London Hospitals and one provincial; in all four the diet was as I described it in my article. I have only worked in one Hospital since the outbreak of war; there the food was no better and no worse than in the other three.

I know that the Matron of the Hospital in which I was trained tried to get a change of diet for the patients; it was put before the Board and after some discussion the Board came to the conclusion that the patients were changed very often, therefore there was no need to change the diet.

Of course I know fruit is impossible now, but in the pre-war days, when sugar was cheap, stewed fruit would be possible, especially when bought on a large scale. Fruits that are in season can be bought in large quantities at 1d. per lb., and bananas by the crate at 3 for 1d. I have bought them in my house-keeping days, so I know.

Still I am very glad to learn that some Hospital patients are properly fed. Yours faithfully,

M. H.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

QUESTIONS.

May 26th.—Describe the abdominal complications of enteric fever, and give an account of the methods of nursing employed in these.

June 2nd.—Explain what is meant by blood pressure.

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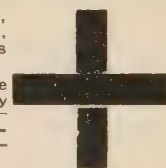
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The Midwife.

A BEAUTIFUL OASIS IN EAST LONDON.

AN APPEAL FOR THE EAST END MOTHERS' HOME.*

By MRS. H. B. IRVING.

(Concluded from page 338.)

The poor mother is not a bad or stupid mother, though we sometimes hear her called so in the papers; indeed, she compares very favourably with her better class sister in love and intelligence and self-sacrifice. But she is asked to do impossibilities. She is urged to produce children that will be a credit to the nation, yet an environment is given her to live in which good and healthy maternity is well nigh impossible. It is an extremely rare thing to find a healthy mother of several children. They *expect* to be ill, or rather never to feel well, and they hardly get a chance to be otherwise. They just accept it along with all the other hardships such as bad housing, vermin, inferior drains, want of a water supply, air and sunshine. And the seeds of a life long ill health are sown very often in young mothers getting about too soon and not taking enough rest when the babies come. That is the enormous advantage of this Home, that the mothers when they come away from their families are forced to rest, and to rest their minds as well as their bodies without household cares—just the new baby and the tired mother together.

As Miss Anderson has told you in the Report, there has been a great strain on the motherhood of the country. Their men are away fighting, many are widowed already and have given their best—my man, my boy—to the great struggle for right and truth. It has been sometimes very fearsome during the long winter for the young mother, alone with her tiny children in the night, when rumour has run riot in the slums. And when it really came, that terror that flies by night, it wrought far more and wider havoc in human life than the lists of killed and wounded showed. It was marked by a sudden epidemic of still births, miscarriages, and premature babies, and if you looked up the charts of the breast-fed babies, who usually do so well in any maternity centre, you would find at that time loss of weight, wasting, enteritis, gastritis, and kindred troubles. So, it behoves us more than ever as citizens to see to the birthright and inheritance of the children left us as a legacy by the men who are fighting our battles.

We can all help to do this in some way, but the skilled maternity work itself can only be done by trained and qualified women. We can help them

to carry on by giving our loyal support, and our sympathy and understanding of their labours.

I know you would like me to say how very much you appreciate the work of the staff here, who, day in and day out, are toiling ceaselessly to comfort and relieve expectant motherhood, banishing fears, cheering the lonely and suffering, bracing the weak, and so building up the health of the women that their children may receive from them the most priceless gift a mother can bestow—the possession of a sound mind in a sound body.

There are two special ways in which friends have greatly helped the Home in the past. There is a very general impression that the working classes are better off to-day than they have ever been before, and certainly there is less absolute destitution; but, though wages have risen, perhaps 25 to 30 per cent., food has gone up over 100 per cent. and clothing 50 per cent., so most people are poorer than before the war.

Take boots for instance, and the difficulty of keeping a family dry shod in these days. It was quite amusing when the Government raised the soldiers' wives' allowances a little while back and paid up a monthly arrears at one time, to see family after family making for the shoe shops and spending it all in one go. No matter where one went that day, everyone seemed creaking about in new boots. And boots do not last like they used to; the material is getting shoddy; and there is no father at home to do the snobbing for the family, so they wear out much quicker. Wool and flannel are almost prohibitive, so the baby has to make shift with flannelette; and home after home that pawned its blankets in the early days of the war is still blanketless because there never has been enough money to spare from food to get them out again.

Nightgowns also are things very convenient to put away for the sake of a loaf and some margarine for the children's tea, and under ordinary circumstances they are not greatly missed; but let the new baby come to town a little unexpectedly and nurse will find she has to make bricks out of straw in the matter of clothing. What would she do, and what would the mothers do without the help of the Needlework Guild which works so splendidly away at the bed jackets, petticoats, the baby's flannels and shawls, the vests and the "nightsies"? The number of garments sent in show a falling off this year, owing to the war; but Miss Anderson does beg that these munitions of the Home may be kept going in spite of all difficulties, as they are very badly needed.

I should like also to voice the grateful thanks of the fifty-seven happy babies who receive the babies' bundles in the "Nina" portmanteaux. Miss Lankester would welcome any new helpers, and Miss Anderson would be *most* thankful for gifts of clothing and old linen.

* An Address (abridged) given at the Annual Meeting, 396, Commercial Road, E.

NEW MOTHERS FOR OLD.

Lastly, most grateful thanks are due to Miss Napier for the care of the convalescent mothers. A country holiday after confinement is of the most enormous value to the city working woman. It is a breathing space of delight, which can be lived over again afterwards, a time to get straight, to take up any hard burdens, a house of defence into which she can escape in the midst of squalor, wretchedness and ill-treatment. Isn't it worth while to give a sane, sound mother back to her children, in exchange for a poor thing with nerves all on end, tired and dispirited? Truly, the Country Convalescent Home resembles Alladin's wicked uncle in that it gives us new mothers for old. She will come back again full of divine discontent. She will hug a secret to herself in the midst of her slum life of something known and experienced that can never be taken away. She can say to herself softly, on even the blackest days—

"The darkening streets about me lie,
The shame, the fret, the squalid jars,
But swallows' wings go flashing by
And in the puddles there are stars."

Have I said enough to show you that the East End Mothers' Lying-in Home is filling a tremendous want in a poor neighbourhood? I do appeal to you to stand shoulder to shoulder with the staff here, and not allow them to suffer from financial worry. The spirit of a centre like this is something that money cannot buy, and, possessing such a spirit, it is not too much to ask that it should be relieved from the wear and tear of trying to make both ends meet.

CENTRAL MIDWIVES BOARD.

A meeting of the Central Midwives Board was held at Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, on Thursday, May 10th.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

A letter was received from the Local Government Board with regard to the question of delegation of inspection of midwives as affecting a complete scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare.

A letter was also received from the National Association for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, and for the Welfare of Infancy transmitting a copy of a draft circular prepared jointly by the Midwives Institute and the Committee of the Association with the view of assisting practising midwives in promoting Breast Feeding, and expressing the hope that permission might be given for the publication of the circular with an expression of the approval of the Board.

With the exception of the note at the end, the Board gave its general approval to the circular.

Letters were read from the General Secretary of the Medical Defence Union enclosing a copy of a certificate given by a certified midwife to a female munition worker in the following terms:—

"Mrs. — is now recovered, and able to resume light work."

(Signature) "M.S., C.M.B."

The matter was referred to the Penal Cases Committee for consideration and report.

APPLICATIONS.

For Removal from the Roll.—The applications of six midwives for the removal of their names from the Roll of Midwives on the grounds of old age, and ill health were granted.

For Recognition as Teacher.—The application of Mr. Arthur Gerald Capel Davies, F.R.F.P.S., was granted *pro tem*.

For Approval as Trainer.—The application of Dr. John R. Armstrong was granted *pro hac vice*.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL.

The grand concert at the Queen's Hall, on Tuesday last, organized by Mdme. Alys Bateman, in aid of Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, N.W., was from first to last a great success; and we may hope that the hospital, which is urgently in need of funds, will benefit substantially. Queen Alexandra—smiling and gracious and beautiful as ever, and wearing a most becoming sequined gown and toque—was present; and with Her Majesty were Princess Henry of Battenberg and Princess Maud of Fife. The Royal Party seemed thoroughly to enjoy the very excellent programme provided by such eminent artists as Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Charles Tree, Mdme. Alys Bateman, and others, as well as the music of the Royal Artillery String Band. The beautiful dancing of Mlle. Adeline Genée was greatly appreciated; and Mrs. Kendal received an ovation when she came on the platform with one of the hospital babies, just three weeks old, in her arms, and in her own inimitable way pressed home the need of caring for the babies of the nation. It is hoped that £500 may be cleared.

A number of the nurses in their white uniforms and of convalescent soldiers from military hospitals gave a picturesque touch to the proceedings.

The energetic Secretary, Mr. Arthur Watts, and all those who so kindly helped and contributed to the success of the afternoon, are greatly to be congratulated on the result.

THE MIDWIFERY TRAINING SCHOOL.

It is not surprising to learn from the Annual Report of the Midwifery Training School that the applications for training as pupil midwives and monthly nurses have shown a considerable reduction, especially in the case of general trained nurses. The high standard of training given in the school has, however, been well maintained, and the results obtained at the Examinations of the Central Midwives Board have been excellent. Of the 113 candidates who presented themselves for examination, only three failed to pass, the percentage of failures being 2.7, whereas over the whole country it was 21.4. Those who are thinking of obtaining midwifery training will do well to bear in mind the excellent results obtained by the pupils of Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

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